

WEDNESDAY June 10, 2015

## Aruba and Cuba are ready to **WORK TOGETHER** on the maritime aspect







# Aruba and Cuba are ready to WORK TOGETHER on the maritime aspect

An agreement has been reached to form a commission to work on this project

**MINISTER** Otmar Oduber is in Cuba and met with the Minister of Transport of Cuba, César Ignacio Arocha Masid. The meeting went on good terms where they exchanged informations. Next to the diplomatic delegation of Aruba, there were present different Directors of different departments of public transport in Cuba.

Cuba has surely complimented Aruba on the touristic aspect after Minister Oduber elaborated that it is not an automatic fact that Aruba, a country with approximately 120 thousand habitants can receive a weight of 1.7 million tourists. Yearly there are over 300 cruise ships that visit our harbor which by itself is a huge accomplishment.

Minister Arrocha said that Cuba is going through a very interesting development where the 56 years of maritime

developments can not be excluded. He sees that there is one mission to go forward. At the other hand he mentioned that Cuba has its national and international airports which are a first class infrastructure.

Thus the main challenges are on the maritime aspects and Cuba is interested in collaboration with Aruba in this to develop the sector. Collaboration between Cuba and Aruba offers opportunities to the tourists to have more possibilities like an enlargement of their terminals. There were also discussions on the possibilities of a ferry to go between Aruba, Cuba and the other Caribbean islands. Even in the cruiser tourism no concurrency can be mentioned. Cuba is interested in

tourist who uses their island as a 'home porting' and Aruba is interested in tourist who come to spend and contribute to our economy.

Minister Otmar Oduber said that they are willing to take concrete steps, and don't talk but act. His counterpart has completely agreed with him.

In this manner an agreement has been reached to form a commission between the Ministries of transport of Aruba,

A T A and Vice Minister of Transport and the Minister of Transport of Cuba to continue to work on these collaborations, the maritime project and ferry services between the islands. Thus we are talking about a point of implementation. They complimented the strings of Cuba with Holland after 1998, and trust that stability in this relation can be maintained with all the partners in the Dutch Kingdom.







# A commission to try to REOPEN the Refinery

**DURING** the discussions in the Parliament meetings about the 2015 Budget, all the Fractions sustained the motion for the Parliament to form a commission to do all possible to reopen the refinery.

'Now that our compromises in Holland are behind us, we will execute the Energy Commission of the Parliament that is presided by Mr. Andin Bikker. We feel that an extra effort should be made for the reopening of the refinery, and we all as members of Parliament feel that this is a duty we have with the people of Aruba.

The refinery is the pillar of the economy

and is extremely important for many reasons. These are just some main reasons"

1. Re-opening of the refinery means that in the first year, our economy will grow with 12%, and the cruel measures that will be brought upon the people should not be included in this growth. You can not expect a growth with hotels alone.

2. Re-opening of the refinery will open more opportunities for jobs, especially for our youth that are specialized on the technical sector that have no jobs now available in Aruba

and will not have a in the touristic sector.

3. Re-opening of the refinery is the only way to fortify our currency reserves that has been dropping drastically in the last years. Tourism alone can not fortify our currency reserves. If our currency reserves continues to drop our florin will be endangered.

During my meetings in Holland I emphasized this aspect also. We believe that the refinery can be reopened if we look for a serious operator who is willing to invest in the refinery, upgrade

the final product to make it more attractive for the international market, but that is also willing to comply with the international standards of the environment to guarantee the security of the inhabitants of the San Nicolas area.

We trust that we can achieve this purpose. It will not be easy, there will be big challenges, but with the strength that unites us as Arubans, we will prevail. Aruba deserves better. Aruba deserves alternatives, not measures. For this cause we will give us all to make it possible for the refinery to reopen.

## Welcome Mikel Erquiaga New Regional Director for Repsol



**LAST** Monday a meeting took place between the Ministers of Economy, Communication, Energy and Environment, Mr. Mike de Meza, the officials of the 'Compania Arubano id Petrolero (CAP) and the executives of Repsol of the main offices in Madrid and regional offices in Houston, where the new Regional Director for Repsol was introduced to Aruba.

Minister de Meza said farewell to Joseba Murillas, director during the exploration project in Aruba since December 2012.

The Minister conveyed his gratitude to the previous Director of Latin America Exploration for his efforts and he wished him success in his new function. Joseba Murillas and the CAP executives

introduced Mikél Erquiaga as the new Director for the Latin America and Caribbean Exploration Division to Mr. Mike de Meza and the Prime Minister Mike Eman.

Minister de Meza expressed that the project of gas and petroleum exploration in the subsoil of territorial waters of Aruba is going good in the sense that it is advancing good and for the end of the year 2015, will the companies decide if the next step should be continued.

This is to drill in the subsoil as a test to see if there is truly gas or petroleum and if it is worth it to continue this project for those involved.

Minister de Meza explained results

that they are analyzing until now has no conclusion yet and it may take up to a year to get the conclusion on this project. But he says that the exploration project is on schedule.

Murillas said that Repsol is very satisfied of how the activities in Aruba are progressing. After the Seismic 2D tests and the Seismic 3D tests, other tests are taking place now in the bottom of the sea and a decision on perforation can be taken between 2015 and 2016. "It is one of the projects that are progressing more rapidly and it is mostly it is due to the good cooperation that we are receiving of all the authorities of Aruba," Expressed Murillas.

The executive that is replacing Joseba Murillas, Mikél Erquiaga, was in Aruba

for the first time and had the function as the Director of Exploration for Europe and the Middle East. He expressed that with mucho optimism he will continue with this project and he hopes that the results will be positive for all the parties to continue forth with this project.

Repsol is well presented in Latin America and the Caribbean. As for the production, the company is active in Venezuela, Trinidad and Colombia and they have exploration project in Aruba, Colombia, Guyana and Trinidad.

Recently has the Repsol acquired Talisman, that is a important company in Colombia which enlarge their presence in this region.





# Opportunities of COOPERATION between Cuba and Aruba

**DURING** his diplomatic visit in Cuba, Minister Otmar Oduber received a presentation of the school known as the FORMATUR. This school is managed directly by the Ministry of Tourism in Cuba. Formatur focuses on solutions in the touristic sector. They have a wide curriculum with different subjects that focus on courses of development and actualization.

There are specialized service programs on technical part but also academic courses with different specializations giving the opportunities to continue a specific professional study on the field of choice. There are also courses of retraining for the people who are already working in the field to have the opportunity to do a continuation in their study. They also offer a refreshment course and elaborate on what they have studied. This is a Government school which offers sustain to the labor development but especially in tourism for almost all the hotels in Havana, Cuba.

Besides, in each specialization chosen, there are in the curriculum basic exercises like, culture, tourism in general, quality, security, ethic and history. They are all basic components of a continues program. For the admission at Formatur, one must pass an exam and dependant of the result, further information will be given in order to follow a profession in the tourism industry.

After the presentation of the Director of Formatur, Mrs. Elena Garcia Ramos Lopez, has Minister Oduber elaborated on the situation and characteristics of the touristic sector in Aruba which is the prime sector for our country.

In Aruba, 90% of our income depends of tourism indicating the importance of this for

the country. The Minister shared also that we too have education at university level which focuses on tourism. Also the EPB and EPI have programs that focus on tourism.

We also have the Aruba Certification Program that is designed for those who are already working in the touristic sector.

What impressed Minister Oduber most was the fact that Formatur offers the opportunity to the youth between 16 and 17 who has finished their studies at the EPI of EPB but are not ready to integrate in the labor sector yet. An intermediate program that offers the youth opportunities before graduating professionally in the touristic sector. Here is where Minister Oduber saw a possibility of cooperation between Cuba and Aruba. Aruba can also offer exchange of information on our expertise in the touristic sector realizing the high level of service that we have. This has been agreed by all present as a good opportunity.

Another interesting topic that the Minister of Tourism was interesting in was a curriculum called 'Rescue of the Cuban Kitchen'. This reflects the importance of the Culture in tourism. There are different types of tourists and nowadays, the tourist seeks more than just a beach to enjoy.

Rescue of the typical cuisine, can be a very interesting aspect. The Director of ATA, Mrs. Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes also find this to be a very interesting topic to investigate.

Minister Otmar Oduber was extremely satisfied with this presentation and at the same time shared tourism aspects of Aruba keeping in mind the opportunities that can be taken for cooperation between Cuba and Aruba.





# Rosabelle Illes

## Young Author in the Saint Martin Book Fair

**THE** 13 Annual Edition of the Book Fair of Saint Martin took place last week and our Aruban young author, Rosabelle Illes, was invited as a guest author by the Co-Founder and renown writer in the Caribbean, Mr. Lesana M. Sekou.

After seeing videos of Mrs. Illes reciting her poetry on YouTube, Sekou was very impressed with her talent and wished that Illes would introduce her work in the Island of Saint Martin.

Illes had her first presentation at the "Poet's Lounge Open Mic Night", a monthly event organized by the Ki SXM company. Rosabelle Illes and Fola Gader, a poet, rapper and educator in Guadeloupe were the two invited guest to share their work with local writers.

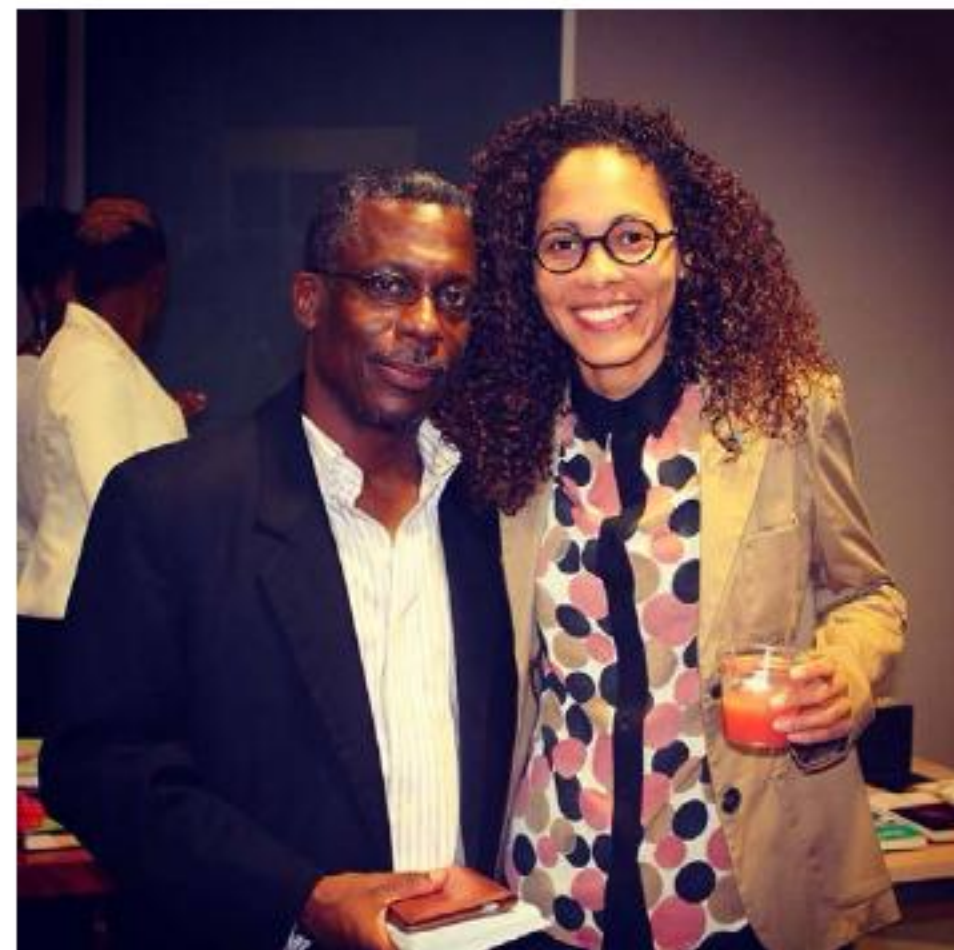
Ki SXM considers the Open Mic Night a very successful one, generating one of the largest public that the event had so far. Illes shared her work with local writers in Saint Martin and she also received the opportunity to present her work with other international author. On

the literary night, 18 writers were selected to declaim their poetry or read part of a story during the exclusive dinner.

The Book Fair evolved with different sessions of discussions, workshops, lectures and opportunities to exchange ideas. Illes focused more on the writing workshop presented by Tishani Doshi. She is an Indian writer and dancer who were awarded my times for her work.

Illes is the author of two collections of poetry, "Beyond Insanity" and "Spiel di mi Alma" (Mirror of my Soul). Her short stories were published in international literary magazines as the Crack the Spine (Mississippi), the New York Press (California) and the Susumba'a Book Bag (Jamaica).

At the present she is working on a children's book that she co-wrote with native musician of Curacao, Levi Silvanie. For more information about Rosabelle Illes and her work, visit her website: [www.rosabelleilles.com](http://www.rosabelleilles.com).







# Expo HEALTH 2015

**EXPO** health took place last weekend at the Renaissance Convention Center. The organizers of this event Jimmy Douglas and Edbert (Ebby) Schwengle can look behind a very successful Expo Health that they organized just after the Health Care Conference Aruba. The opening was conducted by the Health Minister, Dr. Alex Schwengle and Jerwin Giel, a cancer survivor to whom this Expo Health was dedicated.

Jimmy Douglas and Ebby Schwengle directed first some words to those present about the importance of this Expo and then they invited Minister Dr. Alex Schwengle to begin with the ceremonial part of the event.

The guests to the Expo Health were witnesses of all that Jerwin Giel has gone through since his cancer was detected. He confronted the illness with firmness and an incredible determination, that this cruel illness will not finish him. And today he is alive and able to share his experience.

At the end of his speech, Jimmy Douglas presented a plaque recognition to him for this bravery.

As mentioned, the organizers can look behind a very successful Expo Health and a good quantity of information.

Even our Director Victor (Toko) Winklaar was asked to participate in some examinations as blood pressure and the result was very good.









The Dutch Kingdom

# Where it's ALWAYS summer

By: Roland W. Peterson.



GUARD DUTY - LAGO REFINERY WWII

**I WATCHED** the T.V. and saw the Grandpa's who were once the young Tigers that ran across the bridge, rushed ashore on Omaha Beach, put an end to WW II and restored "Freedom" in Europe (Holland).

Today their hands tremble, sit in a wheelchair and need assistance to make a few steps forward.

The Dutch King and Queen traveled many miles to personally say thanks to these men. A 'thanks' that resounded over the whole world.

But what did Aruba do as part of the Dutch Kingdom? Nothing for the men who stood guard while we slept; the men who made their ultimate sacrifice on the oil tankers that were torpedoed, while bringing oil for Aruba, to make fuel for the U.N.

Aruba, where the first shot outside the WWII Theater in Europe was fired.

There is a piece of land in Seroe Colorado, that a Private Group of People has asked for (for more than three (3) years now) who would like to build a Memorial Park, but this initiative has also been "torpedoed" and is now lying with the SS. Oranjestad, on the bottom of the ocean.

This Memorial Park will serve a dual purpose and the Aruban Government can only be proud.

Is it really always summer in the Dutch Kingdom

## New **World** Festival & Academy

Concerts at 'Cas di Cultura'



**UNDER** the direction of the famous Venezuelan/Swiss violinist, Simon Gollo, New World Festival & Academy (NMFA) continues with the free concert at 'Cas di Cultura'. Today's program starts at 8:00 pm and consists of a concert of master and students who will interpret String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 35 of Anton Arensky. The musicians are Dmitri Berlinsky, Violin;

Richard Young, Viola; German Marcano, Cello and Marcio Carneiro, Cello.

Nothing is programmed for tomorrow but for Friday, a series of concerts will start again with the play of Johannes Brahms, Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8, revised version (1889) played by Arnaldo Pizzolante, Piano; Simon Gollo, Violin and Marcio Carneiro, Cello.

### Informative Service Of The Government

## CHANGES IN PRICE of oil products

**MINISTER** of Economy, Communication, Energy and Environment informs that a change of price has emerged in oil products.

Starting 10th of June 2015, the prizes will be as followed:

Gasoline unleaded-premium 196,2 cent/

liter (increase of 6,8 cent)

Diesel 160,6 cent/ liter

(increase of 7,5 cent)

Kerosene 148,2 cent/ liter

(increase of 8,1 cent)

The prizes includes BBO/AZV





# Small plane CRASHES in Bahamas

**FIVE** people, including an eight-month-old baby, survived a light plane crash in the Bahamas and were rescued after drifting in a life raft for almost three hours, officials said.

Their single-engine Cessna took off from Crooked Island and ditched in waters near New Providence, southeast of Nassau, shortly before sunset, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) said.

A joint search was launched at about 7:30 p.m. ET using an RBDF patrol boat assisted by a U.S. Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter.

"At approximately 10:20 p.m. ... the command center received a report from the aircrew aboard the MH-60 aircraft that they located the five people floating on a life raft approximately nine nautical miles southeast of Nassau," the Coast Guard said in a news release. The Royal Bahamian Defence Force arrived on scene, safely embarked the five people and transported them back to the Bahamas."

Pilot Anthiqueko Gibson, 26, was rescued along with passengers Lorenzo Moss, 47, Autoria Moss, 27, Andre Gibson, 22 and Andrew Gibson, 8 months, the RBDF said. They are all Bahamian nationals.

"All passengers appeared to be in good health," the RBDF said in a statement. There was no information immediately available about the cause of the crash.





# Egypt Court SENTENCES 11 to Death Over Soccer Violence



**AN** Egyptian court sentenced 11 men to death Tuesday for their involvement in the worst soccer violence in Egypt's history, according to a broadcast on Egyptian state TV. More than 70 people, some of them children, were killed on February 1, 2012, when fans rioted at a soccer game in the northeastern city of Port Said.

Fans of the hometown Al-Masry club stormed the field after securing a win over Cairo's Al-Ahly club. Horrified

witnesses described how police officers stood by and watched as rival fans attacked one another with rocks, knives and swords. The 11 sentenced to death in a retrial of the case were connected to Al-Masry. They will be able to appeal their sentences, state media reported. Forty other people received prison sentences in the case.

The morning after the riots, the stadium looked like a scene from a horror film, with blood splattered on seats and

walls. Dozens of shoes were left near a gate ripped from its hinges by the pressure of a surging crowd trying to escape. Al-Ahly fans blamed police for what happened. The head of the Port Said security directorate and head of maritime police both received five-year sentences over the deadly violence.

After the Port Said incident, Egypt banned soccer fans from games, and teams played in nearly empty stadiums. Authorities later partially lifted the ban

by allowing a limited number of fans to attend games, state media reported. Unfortunately, Egypt remains no stranger to soccer violence. Last February, 19 people were killed in a crush involving Zamalek club soccer fans. Authorities blamed the deaths on ticketless fans who tried to push their way in to the game. But Zamalek fans painted a different picture, saying on social media that they were tear gassed as they tried to pass through a single, narrow gated entrance.



## This man's blood has saved the lives of TWO MILLION BABIES

**ON** the surface, James Harrison is just an average guy. He loves his daughter and grandchildren, collects stamps, and goes for walks near his home on Australia's central coast. But it's what's under the surface that makes him extraordinary -- specifically, what's flowing in his veins. Known as "The Man with the Golden Arm," nearly every week for the past 60 years he has donated blood plasma from his right arm. The reasons can be traced back to a serious medical procedure he underwent as a child. "In 1951, I had a chest operation where they removed a lung -- and I was 14," recalls Harrison, who is now aged 78.

"When I came out of the operation, or a couple days after, my father was explaining what had happened. He said I had (received) 13 units (liters) of blood and my life had been saved by unknown people. He was a donor

himself, so I said when I'm old enough, I'll become a blood donor."

A deadly problem

Soon after Harrison became a donor, doctors called him in. His blood, they said, could be the answer to a deadly problem. "In Australia, up until about 1967, there were literally thousands of babies dying each year, doctors didn't know why, and it was awful," explains Jemma Falkenmire, of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. "Women were having numerous miscarriages and babies were being born with brain damage. It was the result of rhesus disease -- a condition where a pregnant woman's blood actually starts attacking her unborn baby's blood cells. In the worst cases it can result in brain damage, or death, for the babies.

Rhesus disease happens when a pregnant woman has rhesus-negative blood (RhD negative) and the baby

in her womb has rhesus-positive blood (RhD positive), inherited from its father. If the mother has been sensitized to rhesus-positive blood, usually during a previous pregnancy with an rhesus-positive baby, she may produce antibodies that destroy the baby's "foreign" blood cells.

Harrison was discovered to have an unusual antibody in his blood and in the 1960s he worked with doctors to use the antibodies to develop an injection called Anti-D. It prevents women with rhesus-negative blood from developing RhD antibodies during pregnancy.

"Australia was one of the first countries to discover a blood donor with this antibody, so it was quite revolutionary at the time," says Falkenmire.

**Precious gift**

Harrison's blood is precious. He and Anti-D are credited with saving the lives

of more than 2 million babies, according to the Australian Red Cross blood service. "Every bag of blood is precious, but James' blood is particularly extraordinary," says Falkenmire. "His blood is actually used to make a life-saving medication, given to moms whose blood is at risk of attacking their unborn babies. Every batch of Anti-D that has ever been made in Australia has come from James' blood.

Doctors still aren't exactly sure why Harrison has this rare blood type but they think it might be from the transfusions he received when he was 14, after his lung surgery. He's one of no more than 50 people in Australia known to have the antibodies, according to the Australian Red Cross blood service. Harrison is considered a national hero, and has won numerous awards. He's now donated his plasma more than 1,000 times.





# DENIED

## under Nazis,

### 102-year-old Jewish woman finally gets doctorate

**INGEBORG** Syllm-Rapoport wasn't allowed to defend her doctoral thesis in 1938 under the Nazis because she was part-Jewish. Nearly eight decades later, she became Germany's oldest recipient of a doctorate at age 102.

The neonatologist, a specialist in caring for newborns, cleared the final hurdle last month by passing an oral exam. She received her doctorate in a celebratory ceremony at the University of Hamburg.

"After almost 80 years, it was possible to restore some extent of justice," Burkhard Goeke, the medical director of the university's hospital, said in his speech. "We cannot undo injustices that have been committed, but our insights into the past shape our perspective for the future."

Syllm-Rapoport stressed in her acceptance speech that she went through all the efforts of getting the degree at her advanced age not for herself, but for all the others who suffered from injustice during the Third Reich.

"For me personally, the degree didn't mean anything, but to support the great goal of coming to terms with history — I wanted to be part of that," Syllm-Rapoport told German public television station NDR.

After the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, they gradually disenfranchised Jews, expelling them from universities, schools and many professions, before eventually deporting and killing them in death camps across Europe.

When Syllm-

Rapoport handed in her doctorate thesis, her supervisor at the time, Rudolf Degkwitz, wrote in a letter in 1938 that he would have accepted her work on diphtheria if it hadn't been for the Nazis' race laws which, he said, "make it impossible to allow Miss Syllm's admission for the doctorate."

Syllm-Rapoport emigrated to the United States in 1938 without a degree. After applying to several American universities, she eventually finished her degree in Philadelphia and worked as a pediatrician, before moving with her husband, a socialist like herself, to East Berlin in 1952. The mother of four was the first head of the neonatology department at Berlin's Charite hospital.

Asked about how Syllm-Rapoport did in her oral exam last month — which was on the topic of diphtheria, just like her original Ph.D. thesis — Uwe Koch-Gromus, the university's dean of the medical faculty said, "She was brilliant, and not only for her age."

"We were impressed with her intellectual alertness, and left speechless by her expertise — also with regard to modern medicine," Koch-Gromus said.

Almost 80 years after Syllm-Rapoport had to flee from the Nazis' terror, she concluded her studies with the overall grade of magna cum laude.



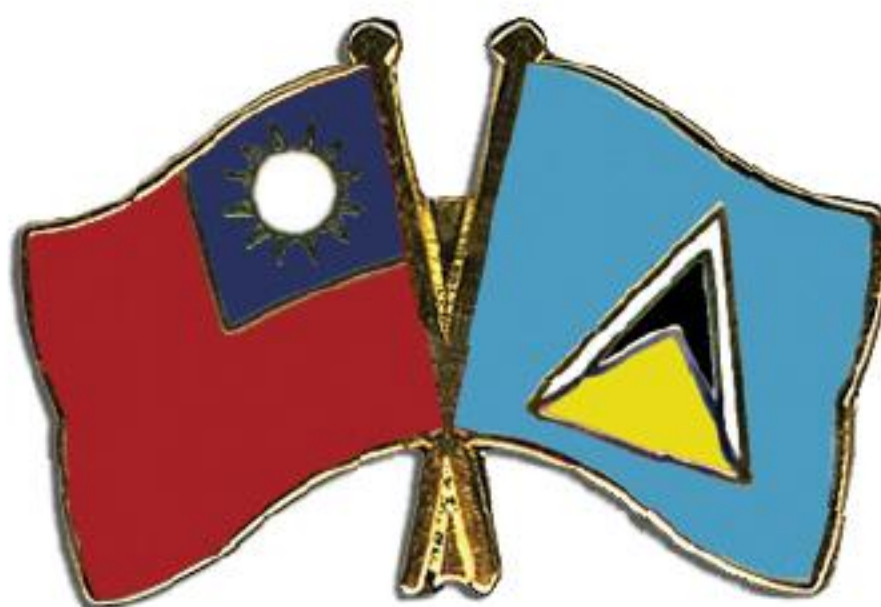




# Saint Lucia Opens it's FIRST EMBASSY in Asia

**THE** government of Saint Lucia opened an embassy last Thursday in Taiwan – the Caribbean country's first in Asia, in an effort to strengthen bilateral ties.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Saint Lucia Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony, and attended by minister for external affairs, international trade and civil aviation Alva Baptiste; permanent representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations Menissa Rambally; and other Saint Lucian officials. Also present were Taiwan's Foreign Minister David Lin, Taiwan's ambassador to Saint Lucia James Chang and other Taiwanese foreign affairs officials.



During his visit, Anthony met with Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeu, to whom he stressed Saint Lucia's appreciation for the support received from Taiwan. He also thanked the Taiwan president for the continuous funding of the Constituency Development Program (CDP), which has provided thousands of jobs across all 17 constituencies in Saint Lucia.

The prime minister also visited with Saint Lucian students in Taiwan. Taiwan and Saint Lucia have maintained close cooperation in public health, education, infrastructure and culture since the two countries resumed diplomatic relations in 2007.





# VENEZUELA'S currency **isn't** WORTH **A PENNY**

**Venezuela's economy is imploding**

ITS currency, the bolivar, is literally worth less than a penny. Just a month ago, \$1 was worth 279 bolivars. That was already pretty dismal for Venezuela. Now \$1 equals 408 bolivars, according to the unofficial exchange rate, which most Venezuelans get when they try to trade currency.

Put another way, one bolivar equals \$0.002 -- less than a penny. The country's currency has lost nearly half its value since the beginning of May, according to [dolartoday.com](http://dolartoday.com), a website that tracks the unofficial exchange rate.

It's another sign that Venezuela is arguably the world's worst economy. Venezuela primarily relies on oil exports to support its economy, which was already under pressure before oil prices tanked in the fall and winter.

The fallout: Socialist President Nicolas Maduro has touted the Bolivarian Revolution, started by his deceased predecessor Hugo Chavez, as a successful movement. The goal is to equally distribute wealth among all the country's people. Maduro has continued massive public spending programs to appeal to the country's poor.

But the bolivar's implosion has only created more inequality. There's a growing divide between Venezuelans who can pay to exchange bolivars for dollars and those who can't. The gap is most glaring at the local grocery store.

The government imports many consumer goods -- like toilet paper, beef and shampoo -- but it can't pay for these goods anymore. Venezuelans wait for hours outside grocery stores, hoping they can get basic items like milk and flour.

Maduro's government now  
barter in its trade  
deals. Uruguay  
p a y s  
Venezuela  
in beef  
for some  
of the

Venezuelan oil it buys. In February, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago offered to exchange toilet paper for Venezuelan oil. Venezuelan officials declined to comment on the offer.

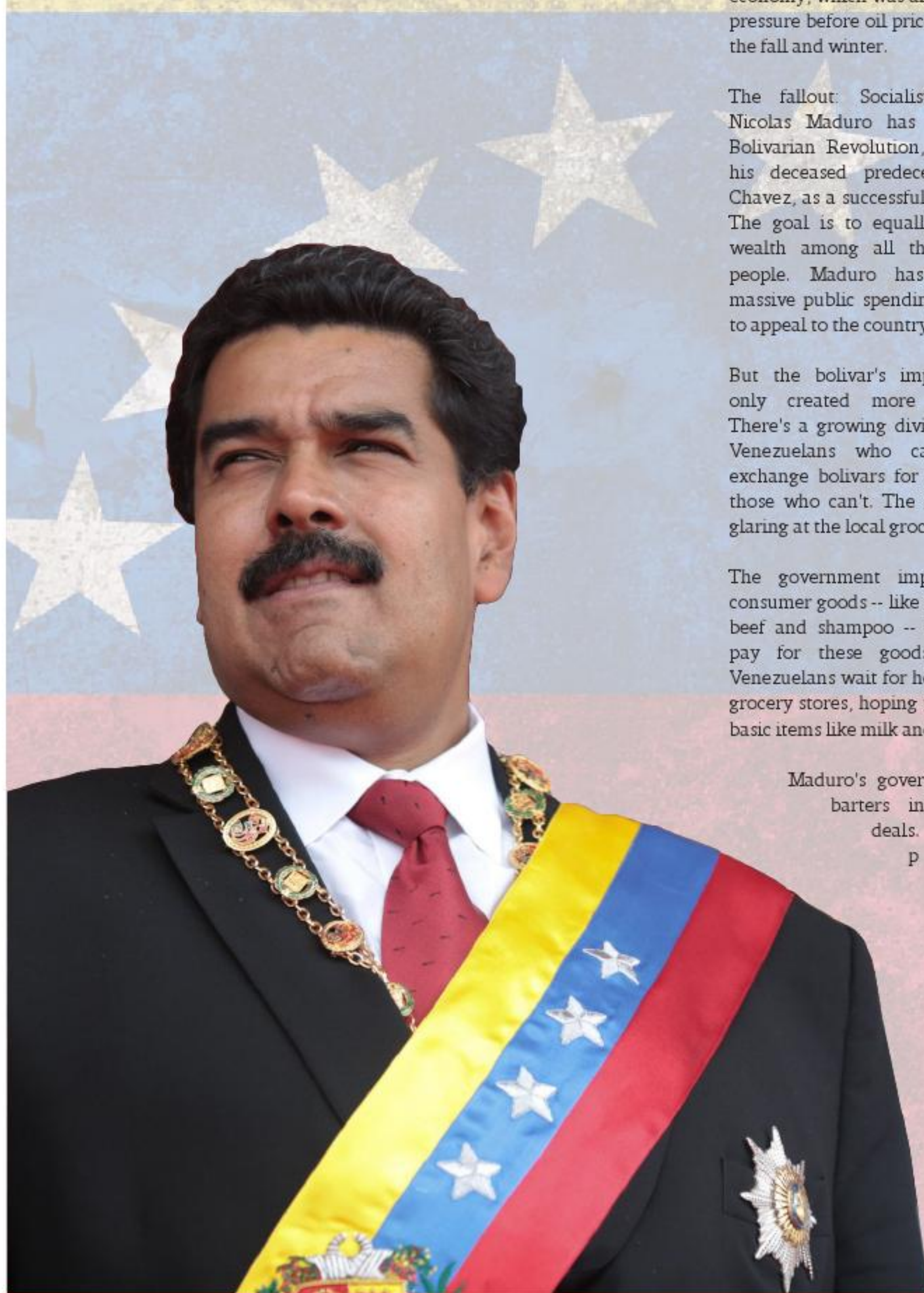
**Here's a few other warning signs for Venezuela and it's economic future:**

1. American companies are getting crushed in Venezuela. Lots of American companies do business in Venezuela, and they're losing hundreds of millions of dollars. Coke (COKE), American Airlines (AAL), IBM (IBM, Tech30) and even Disney (DIS) have said that they are exposed to losses due to Venezuela's currency.

The devalued currency is hurting their earnings. Oracle (ORCL, Tech30) lost \$111 million in Venezuela in its last fiscal year. Ford (F) lost \$800 million last year. Maduro introduced the country's fourth -- not a typo -- exchange rate earlier this year. U.S. companies aren't even sure which exchange rate to use. If Pepsi (PEP) used one exchange rate, the SICAD, then it lost \$160 million. But if Pepsi used the new exchange rate, the SIMADI: "We would have incurred a net charge of approximately \$480 million," Pepsi said in its earnings. Talk about an adjustment.

2. Obama slaps sanctions on Venezuelans. In March, President Obama announced stiff sanctions against seven high-ranking officials in the Venezuelan government and military. All their U.S. assets, including houses, cars and bank accounts, were either frozen or confiscated. Maduro lambasted Obama, calling the sanctions an imperialist move. It created some tension at the Summit of the Americas in Panama in April, but Obama won over many fans with the renewed relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

3. Default in October? The grand finale to Venezuela's tumultuous 2015 could come in October. The government owes about \$5 billion in debt payments then, and there are few convincing signs that Maduro and his government can pay the bills. Venezuela could default on its debt in October, sending the country further into economic mire.





# Zoe Saldana's husband takes her last name

**ACTRESS** Zoe Saldana says Marco Perego had some choice words for her when she tried to dissuade him from taking her last name when they secretly wed in 2013.

"I tried to talk him out of it," she told InStyle magazine. "I told him, 'If you use my name, you're going to be emasculated by your community of artists, by your Latin community of men, by the world.' But Marco looks up at me and says (in his Italian accent), 'Ah, Zoe, I don't give a s\*\*t.'"

The new Mr. Saldana, a soccer player turned artist, and his wife welcomed twin boys this year. Now, he's being hailed as progressive and a feminist. Writing for Who What Wear, Meghan Blalock said it's important because "To our recollection, this is the only instance we can recall of a female celebrity's husband taking her last name."

"And here's why it matters: The storied history of women taking men's last names in marriage is not just a trend or a matter of practicality -- it's a long-existing symptom of the patriarchal society in which we live, in which a marriage means that a woman is little more than a man's property," she writes. "

The revelation provided talk show host Wendy Williams with the opportunity to start a discussion about his decision. Why don't more men do so? It's an issue that's long been discussed.

In 2013, Jill Filipovic sparked buzz when she wrote a piece for The Guardian with the headline "Why should married women change their names? Let men change theirs."

"Your name is your identity," she wrote. "The term for you is what situates you in the world. The cultural assumption that women will change their names upon marriage -- the assumption that we'll even think about it, and be in a position where we make a 'choice' of whether to keep our names or take our husbands' -- cannot be without consequence."

And far from being emasculated, the "Guardians of the Galaxy" star's husband may be helping make the sign of "a man" out of what some see as controversial, as one Twitter user said.





# Warner's \$10m FIFA PAYMENT was not in Caribbean Football Union accounts



**THE** \$10m sent from FIFA to Jack Warner never appeared in the annual accounts of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) and nor did FIFA track the money to ensure it had been invested correctly.

The money, which according to a US Justice Department indictment was a bribe for Warner and his deputy Chuck Blazer to vote for South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup, was sent in 2008 and officially destined for the CFU as a legacy program to support football in

the Caribbean.

Instead, the money was removed from the CFU bank account in New York and used by Warner in a number of ways including paying Blazer \$750,000. The bribery scandal has caused a crisis in the world governing body and last week Sepp Blatter announced he is to step down as FIFA president.

The CFU's financial statement for 2008 makes no mention of the \$10m payment going through its bank account, stating that its only revenue was \$1m

from tournament sponsorship and \$15,000 in membership dues. The CFU audit was carried out by Kenny Rampersad, who was also the personal accountant of Warner and Blazer. The \$10m did not show up in the 2008 financial statements of the CONCACAF federation either – Warner was president of both that organisation and the CFU.

A FIFA spokesman said: "The Caribbean Football Union is not a member

association of FIFA, so FIFA has no right to audit it and has not done so." The \$10m payment was paid by FIFA to Warner at the request of South Africa, but is not itemised in FIFA's 2008 accounts.

FIFA's auditors KPMG did not flag up the payment in its annual report and would not comment on the case, saying in a statement: "As FIFA's statutory auditor, we are bound by professional confidentiality and have to refrain from

any comment regarding our client." FIFA has said it merely "facilitated the reallocation" of funds destined for the World Cup to Warner at the request of South Africa. The South African government has insisted the money was not paid as a bribe.

Blazer has however pleaded guilty to taking the money as a bribe to vote for South Africa following a deal agreed in 2004 involving "high-ranking officials of FIFA, the South African government, and the South African bid committee", according to the US indictment.

Rampersad's involvement as an auditor was criticised by a 2013 report by CONCACAF's integrity committee instigated following Warner's resignation in 2011.

That report stated, "Warner and Blazer had arranged for the audits to be conducted by Kenny Rampersad, an accountant who clearly lacked the independence to conduct a proper audit and did not engage in activities one would associate with an audit."

"A review of the evidence showed that the auditor used by CONCACAF – Kenny Rampersad & Co – was not independent and in fact possessed clear conflicts of interest."

According to the Trinidad Express, Rampersad is also the company accountant for the Trinidad-based JTA supermarket group, and it was he who carried out foreign currency purchases for the company from the \$10m from Warner's account.

# Winter Olympics add 4 NEW events for 2018

**THE** International Olympic Committee approved new events Monday in snowboarding, alpine skiing, speed skating and curling for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Big Air in snowboarding, mass start in speed skating, mixed doubles in curling, and a team skiing event were the additions ratified Monday by the International

Olympic Committee executive board. The snowboard parallel slalom event, meanwhile, was dropped from the Olympic program to make room for Big Air. Under IOC rules, events and disciplines can be added or removed up until three years before the games.

The new events are for men and women. The IOC has been determined to attract younger audiences, as evidenced by the addition of halfpipe and slopestyle events at recent Winter Olympics.

"The changes reflect the continued evolution of the Winter Olympic program and build on the success of recent editions of the games," the IOC said in a statement. "They also build on the reforms outlined in Olympic Agenda 2020 which aim to create more flexibility into the Olympic program of the Olympic Games."

The IOC recommends the participation of about 2,900 athletes competing in 100 events for the Winter Games. The IOC said decisions on which new events to accept for 2018 were based on a number of factors, including youth appeal, TV and media interest, gender equality and "infrastructure and operational cost and complexity." It looks like snowboard's Big Air will be the latest step in the goal to appeal to youth. In Big Air events, boarders fly off a highly pitched ramp similar to those on the slopestyle course, and perform jumps with multiple flips and spins. They do as many jumps as possible in an allotted amount of time.

The IOC is also still working on the program for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Under a new procedure, Japanese organizers can propose the addition of one or more sports for their games.

Baseball and softball — both out of the Olympics since the 2008 Beijing Games — are considered the favourites to be included in Tokyo because of their popularity in Japan. A final decision will be made in August 2016 on the eve of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.





# Manhunt After FATAL SHOOTING

in Street in Zaandam, Netherlands

A MAJOR police hunt was underway in the Netherlands after a man was shot dead by a hooded suspect in a residential street near Amsterdam yesterday.

Dutch media identified the suspect as Lucas Boom, 43 year old convicted drug dealer with links to well-known criminals with a standing criminal career in Amsterdam. Boom was found with automatic weapons near two schools in J. Kruijver Street, located in the northern suburb of Zaandam. The shooting took place shortly yesterday past local noon time.

Officers are looking for a brown van that may have been used during the shooting. A picture widely shared on social media showed a body in the street close to a hooded man dressed in black, carrying what appeared to be an automatic weapon.

Boom was sentenced last year to 4.5 years in prison for bringing in 128 kilograms of cocaine through the port of Antwerp in May 2010, along with some other well-known Amsterdam criminals and a professional K1 fighter named Hesdy Gerges.

That case is still on appeal. One of his co-defendants in the case, Patrick Brisban; was arrested in late 2012 in Diemen. Police are appealing for witnesses of the shooting to come forward.

